



ITL PUBLIC SCHOOL

ENGLISH - CLASS X

TOPIC - THE THIEF'S STORY

LESSON MAP

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ruskin Bond (born 19 May 1934) is an Indian author of British descent. He lives with his adopted family in Landour, Mussoorie, India. The Indian Council for Child Education has recognised his role in the growth of children's literature in India. He was awarded the Sahitya Academy Award in 1992 for "Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra", his novel in English. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014.

THEME

The story by Ruskin Bond, "is based on the theme" of friendship, betrayal, aspirations, connection, trust, guilt, change, kindness, loyalty, revenge and honesty. The story is based on the fact that how love and kindness can transform even the most destructive minds of criminals and thief in this cruel world.

MESSAGE

The moral of the story by Ruskin Bond named 'The Thief Story' is that human values and relations are important in life and it can change a person. Hari Singh is a character who is a thief. Though Hari robbed Anil, but he couldn't run away with his money as Anil was an honest and genuine man.

SYNOPSIS

A young boy makes friends with Anil. Anil trusts him completely and employs him. Does the boy betray his trust?

The story is about a 15-year-old thief who changes his name every month to stay ahead of the police and old employers. This time he kept his name Hari Singh. The other person in the story is a 25 year old writer named Anil. The thief meets Anil and asks him if he can work for him. The story unfolds on how the thief betrays Anil by committing a theft but retracts later on.

GLOSSARY

Misjudged- form a wrong opinion or conclusion about

Balcony- a platform enclosed by a wall or balustrade on the outside of a building, with access from an upper-floor window or door

Terrible- extremely bad or serious

Patted- touch quickly and gently with the flat of the hand

Pleasant- giving a sense of happy satisfaction or enjoyment

Supplies- a stock or amount of something supplied or available for use

Fits and Starts- not working on something consistently

Borrow- take and use (something belonging to someone else) with the intention of returning it

Lend- grant to (someone) the use of (something) on the understanding that it will be returned

Queer- strange; odd

Bundle- a collection of things or quantity of material tied or wrapped up together

Tuck- push, fold, or turn (the edges or ends of something, especially a garment or bedclothes) so as to hide or secure them

Line of work- the principal activity in your life that you do to earn money

Beam- a ray or shaft of light

Crept- move slowly and carefully in order to avoid being heard or noticed.

Drew- pull or drag

Sighed- emit a long, deep audible breath expressing sadness, relief, tiredness.
Startled- feeling or showing sudden shock or alarm
Dashed- Quickly ran towards something
Carriages- any of the separate sections of a train that carry passengers
Hesitated- pause in indecision before saying or doing something
Deserted- (of a place) empty of people
Curious- eager to know or learn something
Robbed- take property unlawfully from (a person or place) by force or threat of force
Bazaar- market
Maidan- a park
Drizzle- light rain falling in very fine drops
Shelter- a place giving temporary protection from bad weather or danger
Clock Tower- a tower, typically forming part of a church or civic building, with a large clock at the top
Midnight- twelve o'clock at night
Damp- slightly wet
Cinema- a theatre where films are shown for public entertainment
Hurried- done in a hurry; rushed
Undetected- not detected or discovered
Clouded- make or become less clear or transparent

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q1. Who does 'I' refer to in this story?

Ans. In this story, "I" refers to the thief who introduces himself as Hari Singh.

Q2. What is he "a fairly successful hand" at?

Ans. He was a "fairly successful hand" at robbing and duping people of their money.

Q3. What does he get from Anil in return for his work?

Ans. When he asks Anil that he wants to work for him, Anil clearly says that he will not be able to pay him. They mutually decide that if the thief would be able to cook food for him, then Anil would feed him. But soon, Anil comes to know that he cannot cook. So Anil tells Hari, the thief, that he would teach him to cook food, teach him to write his name and full sentences and also to add numbers. Apart from this, Hari also used to steal one rupee from the grocery money everyday.

Q4. How does the thief think Anil will react to the theft?

Ans. The thief thought that on discovering that he had been robbed, Anil would definitely be sad but he would be sad because of the loss of trust and not because of the loss of money.

Q5. What does he say about the different reactions of people when they are robbed?

Ans. The thief says that according to his experience, upon being robbed the greedy man showed fear, the rich man showed anger and the poor man showed acceptance towards whatever had happened with him.

Q6. Does Anil realise that he has been robbed?

Ans. Yes, probably Anil knew that he had been robbed because all the notes were wet and damp from last night. He still did not say anything to the thief and gave him 50 rupees and told him that from now on, Anil will be paying him money as salary every month.

Q7. What are Hari Singh's reactions to the prospect of receiving an education? Do they change over time? What makes him return to Anil?

Ans. Hari Singh feels that education can make him earn a lot of money in an honest way. His prospect on receiving an education does not change over time. He feels that he can earn much more if he gets education. He returns to Anil because Anil trusts him, feeds him, treats him well and even teaches him.

Q8. Why does not Anil hand the thief over to the police? Do you think most people would have done so? In what ways is Anil different from such employers?

Ans. Anil did not hand over the thief to the police maybe because he knew that Hari Singh had realized his mistake. He was feeling guilty for what he had done and wanted to mend his ways. This was the reason why he had come back and put the money back to its place. Anil wanted to give him a chance to become a better person.

No, I don't think that anybody in today's world would have done so because to do so, a person needs to have a lot of patience and compassion which is missing in most of the people today. In today's world a thief is considered a criminal even if he realizes his mistake. It takes a lot of courage to trust someone who has broken your trust once. Although I feel that if a person realizes his mistake he must be given another chance to win back your trust.